

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1911.

BETTER PLEAD GUILTY.

Attorney-General Wickersham has made answer to the resolution of Senator Pomerene, of Ohio, directing him to report to the Senate what, if any, action had been taken by the Government for the criminal prosecution of the officers of the Standard Oil Company. The answer is that no action of this sort has been taken, and that no such action is pending, as in the opinion of the Administration it would be highly improper to proceed in this way until after the expiration of the six months allowed the corporation for dissolution by the United States Supreme Court. Whether or not criminal proceedings will then be instituted, is in the opinion of the Attorney-General, a nice legal question, to which he will give close study. That is about as far as he could reasonably be expected to go, in the circumstances; that he will prosecute the officers of the Standard Oil Company if there is the ghost of a chance of securing their conviction we have not the least doubt. That would be something worth while just at this particular juncture in our political affairs, not that we think, of course, that Wickersham would do a thing like this for effect; but because he has been fairly successful in his assaults upon predatory wealth and seems to enjoy the distinction he has won in dealing with problems of this sort.

It looks to us as if the resolution of Senator Pomerene was not at all necessary to the orderly administration of our public affairs, and rather poor politics on the whole; but without discussing this phase of the matter we would suggest that the Standard Oil people might save themselves a great deal of trouble if they would come forward now, plead guilty, begin to serve their sentences and get out sooner. It is further suggested that the course of Judge Martin, of the United States Court in New York, should not be regarded as a precedent by the committing magistrates before whom Wickersham will try the Standard Oil people. Here was a case of the Duven champion smugglers who have already paid the Government \$1,200,000 in settlement of the money out of which they have swindled the Treasury. They pleaded guilty, they were "caught with the goods," and tempering his sense of justice with a very strong quality of mercy, Judge Martin would not send the particular Duven before him to jail for the very extraordinary reason that "good men, when they find that every one else can cheat the Government, will do it more or less." Under this ruling we suppose that smuggling might be regarded as smuggling for revenue, or at least that the law which makes this method of doing business a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment would interpret the offence in the light of reason.

Instead of making the Attorney-General show his hand as to the prosecutions he may or may not direct, it might be competent for the Senator from Ohio to take the United States Judge of the Duven case in New York under advisement. Spreading out the inquiry net as far as possible, Congress would be almost certain to catch some of the fish napping.

PUT HIM OUT.

Hinky Dink had better go about preparing a place in his mansion for the Hon. William Lorimer, his bosom friend. The outlook is very promising that the Junior Senator from Illinois will be unseated, not so much by the wish of that body, but more by the will of the people of the nation. As Senator La Follette said in moving to reopen the Lorimer case: "The people of the country rejected our former verdict as if by one voice. Nothing ever is settled until it is settled right; it is God's eternal justice, pulling to make things plumb."

It has not yet been decided how the case shall be reconsidered. There are three specific resolutions before the Senate: The La Follette resolution calling for an investigation of the case, by a special committee to be selected by the Senate, the Dillingham resolution referring the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, the Martin resolution calling for an investigation of the jackpot fund alone. The La Follette resolution will surely be rejected, since it is a distinct reflection on the ability and motives of the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The election of Lorimer will certainly be subjected to a searching re-examination, with particular reference to the Hine-Funk development of a \$100,000 corruption fund contributed by the Chicago trusts, which wished a "personal representative" in the Senate. The inquiry will probably be conducted by Senators Dillingham, Johnston, Sutherland, Kenyon, Lea and another. Dillingham and Sutherland are standpat Republicans, Mr.

Kenyon is a progressive Republican and Messrs. Johnston and Lea are Democrats.

With Bailey, as is his wont, about to leap to the crest of the popular wave, with the tearful Tillman in practical retirement, with public sentiment and suspicion powerfully against him, it looks as if the "Blond Boss" will have to go back to the voters of Illinois, taking, possibly, a final appeal to them for vindication.

DIAZ.

Rather than shed Mexican blood, endanger the credit of his country, dissipate its wealth, exhaust its resources and expose its policy to international complications, Diaz has resigned the Presidency of the Republic of Mexico, and so has demonstrated again his fidelity to his people, his love of country, his greatness in disaster as he had proved his prowess in arms on many bloody fields. Spurning the idea that he has ever had but the one thought of the glory and success of his nation, he awaits the verdict of history with confidence that when the storm of revolution has passed and the passions of the mob have cooled he will be allowed to die "carrying engraved in my soul a just impression of the estimation of my life which throughout I have devoted to and will devote to my countrymen."

There has been nothing finer in all the life of Diaz than the splendid courage with which he surrenders to the representatives of his people the high office which they have for more than thirty years conferred upon him, and which he could have held to the day of his death had he served his personal ambition as faithfully as he has served his country, had he strengthened his army for his own defence as he encouraged the arts of peace, had he feared the treachery of his people as he trusted in their loyalty. What will happen, now that his strong hand has been removed from the helm of State only the future can tell. For one thing, the hardy old soldier and leader, this Father of Modern Mexico, can lay down the burden of authority content with the sincerity of the part he has played in the making of his nation.

THE ELEVENTH MAN ON THE JURY.

It has never failed that the eleventh man on the jury did not think that all the rest of the panel were wrong on both the facts and the law; and so it is now with Associate Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court. He has amplified his oral opinion in the Standard Oil case and given it to the public with much protestation against the judgment of the other eight members of the Court with sundry reflections of a Jeremiah sort as to the penalties which the country must pay for this miscarriage of justice, this "blow at the integrity of our governmental system." It will make a profound impression on the country, not because what the learned Justice says is warranted by anything contained in the opinion of his associates, but because it will strike the keynote of popular distrust and help further to confuse the councils of wisdom.

CHEAPER SUGAR WANTED.

Congress should by all means take the duty of sugar. That amounts to 1 2-3 cents the pound. Its removal would lessen the cost of sugar by just that much. The duty on sugar is almost 75 per cent. of the value of that commodity. Sugar pays a higher duty than is a household necessity, than luxuries as champagne, furs, paintings and diamonds.

The American people last year used 3,350,255 tons of sugar. Three-fourths of this amount was produced outside of the United States. The reason assigned for the maintenance of the duty is the protection necessary to our own sugar producing sections. The Louisiana planters and the Western beet sugar growers have been taken care of long enough at the expense of the people. There is no reason why the duty on sugar should not be removed. It is right to protect domestic sugar when three-fourths of the quantity we use is produced abroad?

SOAKING THE GOVERNMENT.

The House Committee on Expenditures in the State Department has been finding out some interesting things lately. Dr. Jacob H. Hollander, of the Johns Hopkins University, a man of high repute, has admitted that he received a big salary from Santo Domingo at the same time when he was being liberally compensated by the United States for helping the pious republic to straighten out its tangled financial affairs. The House Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department has been questioning A. Platt Andrews, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who admits that he has received \$2,000 the year as an employee of the National Monetary Commission. In addition to the \$5,000 the year salary which he gets as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. More revelations are ahead.

Exposures like these have caused the House Committee on Appropriations to decide to include in the next executive, judicial and legislative appropriation bill a clause ordering the dismissal of any employee of these departments of the Government who is found to be drawing two salaries from the Federal Treasury. There is a statute on the books now, but it provides no penalty, and is, therefore, inoperative. The House Committee on Printing has also been smoking out some wrongdoers. Public documents have been illegally bound at the public expense. A case has been discovered in which one member had between 2,300 and 3,400 copies of a document bound,

entailing an illegal expense of more than \$1,300 in this single instance.

This sort of investigation is welcome. It should be thorough. The Government offices at Washington constitute a honeycomb of graft. Not long ago we heard a Government employee declare his faith and belief in graft. He admitted it frankly. "How do you graft?" he was asked. By travelling expenses, he explained, he made much extra money. He padded his expense account.

It is said that a man who has not been naturalized is serving in one of the high offices in one of the departments. Congressmen themselves ought to be investigated. They carry on a lot of petty graft, as for example, in voting themselves ladies' handbags as stationery, etc.

Something is rotten at Washington, and it has been rotten for many years. Government is synonymous with graft in the eyes of many Government employees, who believe that the Government owes them everything they can get out of it.

THE INITIATIVE IN MAINE.

The members of the Maine Legislature ignored the request of 12,000 voters for a thorough direct primary law, affecting the nomination for all State and county offices, United States Senators and Congressmen and members of the Legislature, similar to the German law in New Jersey. Instead, the legislators substituted a measure acceptable to the politicians. Because of this violation of the wishes of the people of Maine, a special election will be held on the second Monday in September to decide whether or not the voters desire something which the politicians do not desire.

The bill rejected by the Legislature is an initiated measure. It was drafted and proposed under constitutional provisions. It was circulated throughout the State, and the necessary 12,000 signatures were obtained.

Editor Piper, of the Waterville Sentinel, says of this move on the part of the voters:

"The rank and file are just dressing up their line as a preliminary to the onward march toward better things than public land plunder, profligacy in official life and a system of taxation which burdens the poor and adds to the unearned dividends of the rich. With the initiative and referendum in force, backed by an active public sentiment, scheming politicians cannot stand in the way."

The Maine experiment will be watched closely by students of government in this country.

THE IMPERIAL CROP.

Among the classics of eloquence that are to be found in thousands of libraries and homes is the famous tribute to corn by Governor Oglesby, of Illinois, in which he spoke of "the imperial corn." The adjective was not superlative. Last year corn was the greatest agricultural product of the United States—supplying an empire of territory.

The 1910 corn crop in the United States aggregated 2,123,713,000 bushels, by far the largest yield ever attained. The farm value of this crop was \$1,523,948,000. Secretary Wilson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says that "the value of the corn crop for eight such years would pay for duplicating every mile of steam railroads in the United States and pay for their costly terminals, rolling stock and all stock. In thirteen years it would replace the present banking power of this country, in banking capital, surplus deposits and circulation."

Twenty years ago the South produced one-fifth of the national corn crop; last year the South produced one-third of the corn crop.

The interest-bearing debt of the United States is \$1,500,000,000. The 1910 corn crop could pay that debt.

Congress is the arena for a tariff fight over iron. One might regard iron as a big unit in commerce. The iron production last year amounted in value to only 60 per cent. of the corn crop.

Considering the fact that in 1910 the South produced one-third of the national corn crop, the South ought, within the next decade, to produce fully one-half of the corn.

The corn areas of the North and Northwest are all taken up. In the Mississippi Delta alone only fifteen per cent. of the land is tilled. Not nearly thirty per cent. of the land in the South is under cultivation.

When the South starts to growing one-half of the nation's corn crop, then the South will furnish the two great American crops—cotton and corn. When that realizable day is reached, the South will become the agricultural, if not the money, centre of the country.

The extension work carried on by the United States Department of Agriculture and by the State agricultural agencies is tremendously accelerating the South's stride toward agricultural supremacy. The Boys' Corn Clubs have done great work, and promise even more marvellous results in the near future. The potentiality of the Southern corn crop is immeasurable.

TWO BILLIONS FOR BOOZE.

"There is an alarming increase in the use of alcoholic liquors in the United States," is the statement made by a committee of the Northern Presbyterian Assembly at Atlantic City on Tuesday. "Only harm can result from deceiving the public by charts which indicate a rapid advance in temperance legislation, and by false statements making 'the map all white,' while we are doing nothing of the kind." The per capita drink bill of the United States in 1910 was \$21.17, and the annual drink bill of the average American family was \$111.18.

Last year, according to the report of this committee, the value of the liquor consumed in the United States, or rather its total cost to the consum-

ers, was \$2,256,324,417. This is an enormous sum, and shows among other things that prohibition does not prohibit. It shows, further, that some better method of treating the question should be adopted than that which has so far been tried. Stricter regulation, severer restriction, better teaching are all methods which might be turned to good purpose by those who are sincerely working for the cause of temperance. The case as it stands, or as it has been presented in the report to the General Assembly, is enough to make all good citizens and well-wishers of human kind take careful thought of the subject with the view of controlling an evil which we do not sincerely believe can be suppressed.

PORK CHOPS FOR DEMOCRATS.

Pork chops is the proper thing for breakfast, for all able-bodied Democrats, at least. A little heating, possibly, for this season of the year, but good food when they are well cooked and served with onions, potatoes and a lot of other things. At least such is our deliberate conclusion after reading a dispatch from Springfield, Massachusetts, saying that on his way through that town, going West last Tuesday, Our Candidate, the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, ordered all these things for his breakfast and went on his way rejoicing; but Mr. Bryan, it must not be forgotten, is very much of a man.

AN ABSURD LAW.

Forty-six daily newspapers outside of Chicago have joined with the Chicago papers as the Illinois Daily Newspaper Association, which by unanimous vote has petitioned Governor Deneen to veto the Church bill, prohibiting the publishing of details of crime or attempted crime. This protest signifies that publishers and editors of many papers that are not "yellow" believe that the bill would be against public policy.

As the Chicago Record-Herald points out, if the Church bill should become a law no newspaper could lawfully publish anything but the barest, briefest facts about the assassination of a President, or crowned head, about an explosion like that in the Los Angeles Times office, or about a murder or robbery anywhere. The law would really become a dead letter, and would serve to further contempt for law and legislatures. A malicious indictment might be brought occasionally, but it would serve no honest purpose.

ONE RESULT.

It cannot be said that so far the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Standard Oil case has shown and benefited results so far as popular rights are concerned. The trusts have been comforted with apples and stayed with dagons, but the common people have realized no immediate gain, at least.

One of the results of the decision has been the organization of the furnace trust. Nine of the largest furnace-making factories of the country some time ago decided to combine, but the organizers were restrained from final action until the Supreme Court should hand down its decision in this vital and far-reaching test of judicial policy as to combinations of great wealth. After digesting the 22,000 words of the decree, the trust has concluded "that one more trust will do no harm, especially as it is reasonable."

The new trust embraces companies in Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Utica and Elkhart, Illinois. The capitalization is the negligible sum of \$9,500,000. Of course, the common people can imagine whether furnaces could be bought cheaper when there were nine competing companies or when there is just one big trust.

CONTEMPT.

New examples of what constitutes contempt of court are often found these days. The latest is from Vermont. After dismissing the jurors in a recent case at Guildhall, the judge said to them:

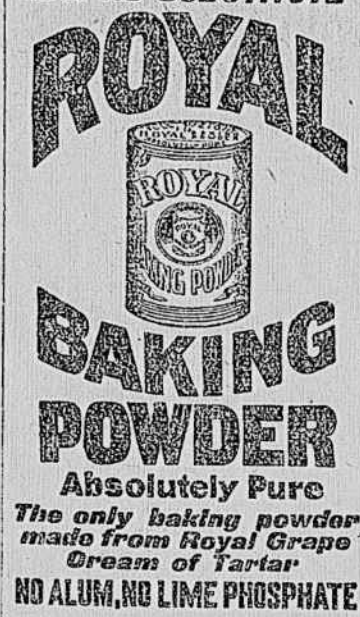
"You are to maintain secrecy as to your proceedings. If any one approaches you to inquire as to anything you did you must tell them that it would be a violation of this order, and a contempt of court for you to answer their questions. I also want to say, and let those within the sound of my voice take notice, that any one inquiring of the jurors as to their proceedings will be in contempt of court, and that the court will deal with them accordingly."

Contrary to the common idea about contempt, it is not merely whatever the judges do not like, for the law books say all the courts of justice have "an inherent power to punish all persons for contempt of their rules and orders, for disobedience of process and for disturbing them in their proceedings." However, what one judge regards as contempt, another does not.

The Hon. John W. Kern, United States Senator from Indiana, wants to be distinctly understood that he is not a candidate for President in 1912, and that he is in favor of Governor Marshall for this position. It will be remembered that Mr. Kern was a candidate for Vice-President at the last election, and his present determination not to stand for a place on the next national ticket opens the way for the Hon. Thomas R. Waring, of Charleston, whose Democracy is of the safe and same order and whose character eminently fits him for the second place on the ticket.

The editor of the Waterbury American, who was educated under the elms of Yale, is very fond of that tree, and speaks with fine appreciation of its beauty and utility. The elms have been dying at both Yale and Harvard during the last two years to the great regret of every artistic soul, because they are subject to many pests and diseases; "but," says the American, "they

HAS NO SUBSTITUTE



can be preserved when we learn how to take care of them, and the general effect can be maintained by putting in a new one when an old one comes down." This is a little sound philosophy which is commended to the three commissioners of the town of Richmond. The elm is a fast grower, and it flourishes in this soil and climate. Whenever one of them dies its place should be taken by another.

According to the correspondent of the New York World at Vienna, "The Russian Government has decided, after a long conference, to remove the prohibition of free entry of American Jews into Russia." What we can't understand is why American Jews should care to enter Russia. That is no country for them or for any persons of their race or religion.

A Kansas City man takes the blue ribbon for jealousy. He has been married three years. His wife is pretty, and she knows it. She acts accordingly. She is proud of her charm, and she likes to see admired. During the three years of the married life of this pair they have moved house thirty-six times upon the husband's demand. He has failed to find a house without doors or windows, and wherever there are doors and windows his wife insists on looking out and smiling. That makes the husband mad, and so they move again. He ought to move to Richmond, where all the women are beautiful.

Voice of the People

What's Wrong.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir,—I have a few questions which I would like, if possible, to secure information from you relative thereto, and for which I will appreciate an answer, if you can give it.

Can you tell me why there seems to be such a falling off in live stock values generally, and also why wool should be so very low? To illustrate, cattle men are loath to buy hogs through this section at 6 cents live weight, a shrinkage of about 1 cent per pound within the last six weeks, while on the other hand, corn (the thing has only been in condition for a few days) has advanced about 10 cents per bushel during the same period, and all other foodstuffs—bran, shorts and chops—have advanced about \$2 per ton wholesale.

Again, if a man sells a good beef for 5 cents per pound, he is lucky, while the butchers tell me they get 10 cents per pound for the hide, and choice cuts out here in the country are bringing 10 cents, and round steaks 15 cents per pound.

Lambs seem to be a drug on the market, some offering as much as 9 cents per pound, while to buy it dressed costs 20 cents.

Wool, free of dirt and burrs (but unwashed) is only bringing 17 cents a pound, while raw cotton is selling for 16 cents, and yet if a party wants a wool suit, the retailer always wants a price far in advance of cotton goods. On top of this, with all food values about 15 per cent. higher than they were six weeks ago, the thing which consumes the food is down about 15 per cent., making a general spread of 30 per cent., while hay is higher than ever known in a business experience of fifteen years. The thing which through this section is something unprecedented, and thereby cutting pastures down fully 50 per cent.

I am a buyer of grains, and we enjoy here the same rate from the West as Virginia cities, and use actually about 500 cars. I am also a seller from a farmer's standpoint of cattle, sheep and hogs, and looking at the thing from both sides, it looks as if something was wrong with the thing which consumes the food, and the thing which compares with the retail prices.

"I don't set myself up as a kicker or a know-all, and am simply asking for general information for this condition of things, and to the country east of the Mississippi."

H. O. LYNE.
 Orange, Va.

Pointexter Answers Talley.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 I refute and deny the statement made by Attorney Robert H. Talley that I at any time said or gave to any paper that I was invited to Mrs. L. L. Gregory's home, but I went there on my own initiative with my representative to interview her on important matters connected with her husband and the company that I represent. She knew nothing of our coming as one evening paper states. We remained not over fifty minutes. I was extremely polite and courteous to her; not impertinent to her mother-in-law, as Mr. Phillips, her brother-in-law, can State, who was present all the time. She received us in the manner of a lady.

I am not running the newspapers of Richmond or any other city, therefore am not responsible for what they say or print. I wish to say to Mr. Talley, however, that our mode of procedure is upright and honorable, and his unjust attack upon me personally and our methods of investigation are entirely uncalled for, as no one wishes to disturb or cause his clients unnecessary trouble.

ERNEST POINDESTER.
 Richmond, May 26.

Daily Queries and Answers

Hollywood Memorial Day.

Will you tell me what day this year Memorial Day will be at Hollywood, May 30. Y. Z.

Wedding Apparel.

1. Is it correct to wear dress suits for a 5 o'clock wedding?
 2. Tell me what a groom should wear for a 5 o'clock wedding and best man wear black clothing?
 A SUBSCRIBER.

Jamestown Exposition Area.

How many acres were in the Exposition grounds at Jamestown?
 BASIL H. TRICE.

Locust Year.

1. Tell me whether or not it is this locust year, and how long it has been since locust year, and please tell me something about them in general.
 2. Tell me what a locust year would cost me to get it on Monday on R. F. D. No. 1, Optario, Va.? Or could I get it any sooner than Monday?
 A SUBSCRIBER.

I already the seventeen-year locust has made its appearance in the vicinity of New York City. It has been found on Staten Island and near Plainfield, N. J., the latter being the worst-infested locality in the East, according to the entomologists. The insects are expected to emerge from the grub stage there about June 1st, and protection against their ravages is being devised by the most vigilant farmers of the East. It has been estimated that the locusts appearing at this time are the progeny of thirteen years—this year they come together, have done as much as \$200,000,000 damage in a single year.

Fortunately, there exist simple and effective preventives of the pest. Bordeaux mixture or lime wash will keep them off trees and shrubs, which are placed in the ground within five inches of the surface, can be destroyed by running heavy rollers several times over the ground or by burning, burning and tramping. In time, undoubtedly, the seventeen-year and the thirteen-year locusts will disappear through the application of the teachings of science.

"2. It would cost you \$2 the year, \$1 for six months, 50 cents for three months, 25 cents the month. You would not get it on R. F. D. until Monday."

Rudyard Kipling.

Will you please print a short sketch of Rudyard Kipling? Was he born in England? What are some of his best works?
 Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India, December 30, 1865, son of Joseph Lockwood and Alice MacDonald Kipling, educated in England, and was assistant editor of the Pioneer and the Civil and Military Gazette at Lahore, 1882-1889. "Departmental Ditties," published in 1885, and "Plain Tales from the Hills" in 1888 are the best of his early works in prose and verse. He was a first-class poet, one morning and evening, and a first-class story teller. In 1892 he married Caroline Starr, daughter of H. Wolcott Balestier, in New York and settled in Vermont, where

he remained until 1896. He again visited the United States in 1899, when he suffered from a severe illness. In the same year he visited the scenes of the war in South Africa. He also traveled in Japan, China and Australia. He received degree of Hon. LL. D. from McGill University in 1899, Hon. D. Litt., Durham and Oxford, 1907, and Cambridge, 1908. He was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1907.

The "Recessional," written on the occasion of Queen Victoria's jubilee, and "The White Man's Burden" are among the more widely read of his recent verse. His long novel, "Kim," is probably the high-water mark of his achievements. His prose and verse are at their best when he is writing of India, and his stories of India have often been read to those of Sir Walter Scott concerning the life of the Scottish highlands.

Wilson a Virginian.

Will you please advise through the medium of your Query Column if Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, is a Virginian by birth, and also, if consistent, the place of birth and a short sketch of his early career?

INQUIRER.

Woodrow Wilson is a Virginian. He was born at Staunton December 28, 1856. He is the son of the Rev. Joseph R. Wilson and Jessie Woodrow Wilson. He took the degree of A. B. at Princeton in 1879. In the term 1879-'80 he studied law at the University of Virginia. He took the degree of Ph. D. at Johns Hopkins in 1885. He was married in 1885 to Miss Louisa Axson, of Savannah, Ga. June 1, 1885, he practiced law in Atlanta, Ga., 1882-'83; he was professor of history and political economy at Bryn Mawr College 1885-'88. From 1888 until 1899 he held the same chair at Wesleyan. From 1899 until 1902 he was professor of jurisprudence and politics at Princeton University. He wrote a number of remarkable books in his early career.

Presidio.

Kindly advise the derivation and definition of the word "presidio."

SUBSCRIBER.

This word is from the Latin "praesidium" meaning a garrison or fort. It has two definitions: (a) A seat of government, especially a place of military or military power; used in the Southwestern United States. (This is the ordinary definition.) (b) A place for the deportation of criminals; a penitentiary.

Ambiguus.

Is this sentence ambiguous? "I am prepared to tell him what I think of him in public." X.

"Carry Me Back to Old Virginia."

If the reader who wishes a copy of the song named above will send us self-addressed postal, we shall be glad to supply address of dealer who sells the ballad. It was written by James C. Burdette, and was kindly sent us the information desired about this song.

TWO "OLD COUNTS" VISITING IN AMERICA

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONTENOY.

COUNTS ERIC AND ROBERT SALM, who arrived in this country on Monday, May 22, at New York, were met on Sunday last, with the intention of spending the summer in the United States, making their headquarters at Washington and Bar Harbor, are no ordinary counts. They are allgraves, that is to say, "Old Counts," an old German dignity, midway between prince and count, and which is still borne by the members of several of the mediæval houses which exercised petty sovereignty in Germany until the break up of the Holy Roman Empire by the first Napoleon at the beginning of the nineteenth century. There are no allgraves among the ordinary or nobility of Germany and Austria.

As mediævals, the two Counts Salm have taken precedence of all non-mediæval nobles, no matter how the latter be dukes or princes, and have the right to mate on a footing of equality with the members of the reigning houses of the Old World. In fact, one of their family, Emmanuel, son and heir of his chief, is married to Archduchess Christine of Austria, daughter of Archduke Frederick and Archduchess Isabella.

Count Eric and Count Robert are both unmarried, each of them officer of a crack Dragon regiment of the Austro-Hungarian army, and titular Chamberlain of Emperor Francis Joseph.

Count Robert, who is a younger son, is debarré from wedding any American woman, save with the consent of all the adult members of their extremely numerous and very wealthy family. Should they wed without this consent, the union would be regarded as invalid. Count Eric, on the other hand, whose wives would not be recognized as such, or permitted to bear their name and house, while Count Robert would in the same manner be precluded from inheriting their father's property, name, or rank.

Count Eric is an American girl, failing to realize this, was subjected to much trouble and humiliation in marriage. He is now a member of the Salm family, since it was borne with distinction by Prince Felix Salm, who, as we have mentioned, was a friend of Lincoln, served through the War of the Union, commanded the Sixty-eighth New York Regiment, and emerged at the close of the conflict, with the rank of brigadier-general. Prince Felix was an uncle of the present chief of the house, Count Robert, who, in 1848, this country, had seen active service in the Holstein campaign in 1849, he, however, compelled to resign his commission, the Prussian army, and to leave Europe on account of debt.

Prince Felix Salm married, without the consent of his family, at Washington, on August 30, 1862, in St. Patrick's Church; the ceremony being performed by the Rev. J. A. Talley, who did not so very long ago, Miss Alice Leclercq, of New York, the orphan daughter of Colonel Leclercq, and who was a member of the family at Washington. Prince Felix Salm, who was a popular story that she was ever a circus rider; a report which undoubtedly was the origin of her reputation for eccentricity, which she was once playing on Pennsylvania Avenue, and afterwards during the various campaigns of the War of the Union, she accompanied her husband wherever possible, and her services to the sick and wounded soldiers on the battlefield caused Governor Yates, of Illinois, in 1863, to grant her a captain's commission and pay.

At the close of the war, Prince Felix and his American wife made their way to Mexico, in order to join the cause of the Emperor Maximilian. There the prince served, as he called himself, as General Van der Smeken. Captured with the Emperor, he was rendered to the United States, where he was held in custody, and the latter's fate, had it not been for his